Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Cancel claims 1 - 27 and replace with claims 28 - 52.

Claims 1 - 27. Cancelled.

28. (New) A process for preparing amorphous silicon particles, comprising:

reducing a halosilane, organohalosilane, salt thereof, or mixture thereof with a metal or metal compound as a reducing agent in an organic solvent,

wherein when the halogen of said halosilane or organohalosilane is C1, Br, or I, said organic solvent is an apolar organic solvent.

29. (New) The process of claim 28, wherein said halosilane comprises silicon tetrachloride.

30. (New) The process of claim 28, wherein said salt comprises a hexafluorosilicate salt.

31. (New) The process of claim 28, further comprising first preparing by one of the following:

a) where the halosilane comprises $SiCl_4$,

i) reacting SiO_2 with chlorine in the presence of a reducing agent to form $SiCl_4$,

ii) reacting silicon with chlorine or a chlorine compound to form $SiCl_4$; or

iii) separating $SiCl_4$ from the product of a Müller-Rochow synthesis of chlorosilanes,

b) where the halosilane comprises SiF_4,

i) reacting SiO_2 or a metal silicate with HF or a fluoride of at least one metal selected from the group consisting of the Group 1 and Group 2 metals of the Periodic Table of the Elements to yield SiF_4 and H_2O or

ii) decomposing a hexafluorosilicate metal salt to generate SiF_4 and a metal fluoride.

32. (New) The process of claim 28, wherein a metal is employed as a reducing agent, and said organic solvent is heated to a temperature sufficient to melt said metal.

33. (New) The process of claim 32, wherein said metal in a liquid state and said organic solvent are agitated to form a dispersion of metal.

34. (New) The process of claim 28, wherein said reducing agent comprises at least one metal from Group 1 or Group 2 of the Periodic Table.

35. (New) The process of claim 28, wherein said reducing agent comprises sodium metal.

36. (New) The process of claim 28, wherein said reducing agent comprises a dispersion of a solid metal particles in organic solvent.

37. (New) The process of claim 28, wherein said reducing agent comprises fusible metal, and said organic solvent has a boiling point at the pressure under which the process is conducted which is higher than the melting point of the fusible metal.

38. (New) The process of claim 37 which is conducted at atmospheric pressure.

39. (New) The process of claim 28, wherein said step of reducing comprises reducing under reflux in the organic solvent.

40. (New) The process of claim 28, further comprising separating an amorphous silicon particle product from other reaction components.

41. (New) The process of claim 28, wherein crystalline silicon is a precursor to said halosilane or organohalosilane.

42. (New) A process for purifying silicon metal, comprising supplying impure silicon in the form of silicon metal or a silicon compound, converting said silicon metal or said silicon compound to a halosilane, an organohalosilane, or a hexahalosilicate salt; preparing amorphous silicon by the process of claim 28; and isolating a pure amorphous silicon powder product.

43. (New) A process for preparing an organosilicon compound, comprising:

a) preparing amorphous silicon metal by the process of claim 28;

b) reacting said amorphous silicon metal with one or more organohalogen compounds; and

c) isolating on organosilicon compound.

44. (New) The process of claim 43, wherein said amorphous silicon is in the form of a black amorphous silicon, brown amorphous silicon, or mixture thereof.

45. (New) The process of claim 43, wherein said organosilicon product comprises at least one oganohalisilane.

46. (New) The process of claim 43, wherein said organosilicon compound comprises a methylhalosilane.

47. (New) The process of claim 43, wherein no catalyst for the reaction of amorphous silicon metal with organohalogen compound is present.

48. (New) The process of claim 43, wherein an effective amount of a catalyst which catalyzes the reaction between amorphous silicon metal and organohalogen compounds is present.

49. (New) The process of claim 43, wherein the process is conducted at a temperature below 300°C.

50. (New) The process of claim 43, wherein said amorphous silicon metal is employed in admixture with a metal halide byproduct of the preparation of said amorphous silicon metal.

51. (New) The process of claim 43 which takes place in a fluidized bed comprising amorphous silicon metal particles.

52. (New) The process of claim 43, wherein reaction of amorphous silicon metal particles with organohalogen compound is accelerated by irradication with microwave energy.

53. (New) The process of claim 52, wherein a further substance which absorbs microwave energy and transfers absorbed energy to silicon particles is present.